

[Report No. 184.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 24, 1859.

Read a first and second time, and the further consideration postponed until Monday next, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHN SHERMAN, from the select committee, reported the following bill :

A BILL

Regulating navy yards, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the commanding officer at each of the navy yards shall
4 appoint the master workmen of the yard ; each master work-
5 man, before his appointment, shall be examined by one civil
6 and two naval officers of the yard, to be detailed for that pur-
7 pose by the commanding officer, and found suitably qualified
8 to discharge the duties of master workman. The master
9 workmen shall hold their places three years, unless removed
10 by the commanding officer for good cause, to be reported to
11 the Bureau of Yards and Docks, and shall be subject to roll-
12 call in the same manner as other workmen. Each master

13 workman shall select the workmen under him, subject to the
 14 approval of the commanding officer. The number of master
 15 workmen, and of men under them, shall be fixed by the naval
 16 constructor and constructing engineer, each for his department,
 17 and shall be increased or diminished upon their written requi-
 18 sitions, approved by the commanding officer.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That no master work-
 2 man or man in the yard shall be appointed who is recommended
 3 by any member of Congress or officer of the government
 4 whose duty is not within the yard ; and workmen shall be dis-
 5 charged only for misconduct, inefficiency, or want of work.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That materials for the
 2 navy, except as provided by law, shall not be purchased by
 3 open purchase, unless the article needed is not embraced in an
 4 existing contract, and time will not permit of delay ; and
 5 in such case it shall be purchased upon the requisition of the
 6 naval constructor or constructing engineer, approved by the
 7 commanding officer, and a master workman detailed for each
 8 purchase by the commanding officer, and in accordance with
 9 the regulations of the department.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That a naval store-
 2 keeper shall be appointed for each yard, in the same manner,
 3 and for the same time, as the navy agent, at a salary of one
 4 thousand seven hundred dollars a year, who shall give such
 5 bond and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the

6 Navy Department ; he shall, in connexion with an officer or
7 inspector detailed for this duty by the commanding officer,
8 inspect all articles purchased for the government, both as to
9 quality and price ; he shall make to the proper bureau a
10 monthly statement of all articles purchased on open purchase,
11 with the price paid and the fair market price.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That no officer or
2 man in the yard shall, during his term of office or employ-
3 ment, be engaged in any other business than his duty in the
4 yard.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the command-
2 ing officer shall, at the end of each fiscal year, cause a detailed
3 inventory to be taken of all materials and stores on hand, and
4 of the amount received and expended during the year, and
5 report the same to the proper bureau.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of
2 the Navy is authorized and required to prepare and enforce a
3 code of regulations for the government of the navy yards con-
4 sistent with existing laws.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That all coal for the
2 use of the navy shall hereafter be furnished by contract, by
3 the lowest bidder ; the contract to be made in the mode pre-
4 scribed by law for the supply of other materials for the navy.
5 The Secretary of the Navy shall annually appoint a person
6 skilled as a coal dealer an inspector of coal, who shall reside

7 in Philadelphia; and who, during his term of office, shall not
8 purchase coal on his own account, or for others, and shall
9 receive a compensation not exceeding two thousand dollars per
10 annum. He shall cause to be weighed and measured, at the
11 expense of the contractor, all coal for the government, and
12 shall carefully inspect and reject all that is not of the quality
13 prescribed by the contract. He shall, under the direction of
14 the Secretary of the Navy, contract for the transportation of
15 coal to the ports or places where needed for the public service,
16 and shall make monthly reports of his proceedings to the
17 Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repairs.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That if any member
2 of Congress shall, directly or indirectly, procure, or aid in pro-
3 curing, for any person or persons, or company, any contract
4 with, or work for, the United States, made, or to be made,
5 with any person authorized to make contracts on the part of
6 the United States, and shall receive, or contract to receive,
7 directly or indirectly, any money or property for any interest
8 or share in said contracts, or the proceeds or profits thereof,
9 every member so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, be
10 adjudged guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall be fined one
11 thousand dollars and be imprisoned not to exceed one year, or
12 both, at the discretion of the court.